

SUBJECT : Pray For Every One

BIBLE BASIS:

Lesson Scripture:

1Timothy 2:1-8

BIBLE TRUTH:

To emphasize the importance of prayer as a evangelistic tool to reach the lost.

MEMORY VERSE: READ 1Timothy 2:1

Lesson Aim:

That believers will began to impact their communities with the power of prayer

Introduction

- Before we can change the spiritual climate of our cities, we must have a working knowledge of one of our primary tools: Prayer Evangelism
- Simply stated prayer evangelism is: Talking to God about your neighbor before you talk to your neighbor about God. Prayer is the most tangible source of power in the human heart. Mark 11:21-26
- Intercessory prayer on behalf of our cities is the best way to counteract the work of the devil. Standing in the gap and praying for the Kingdom of God to come to our cities is what Jesus taught his disciples to do. Matt.6:9-10.
- Intercessory prayer for the lost is the best way to counteract the work of the devil and open their eyes to the light of the gospel. Rom 12:21, 2Corn. 4:4, Act 26:18, The H.S. Rom 8:26-27,34, Jesus Heb 7:25
- How many of us are saved today because somebody prayed? Jam 5:16
- By the believer praying for the felt needs of the lost, it forces the lost to ask the question: Why would God do something for me while I am in my sins? We all know the answer, because God loves them. The sinner has no idea that God really loves him unless we tell them.
- The Bible tells us God is love. It doesn't say God has love. Love is the essence of Gods character. John 3:16-17, Rom 5:8
- Praying for a sinners felt need allows the lost to experience the mercy of God (God's unconditional love) at a time he may not be ready to repent to experience God's Amazing Grace.

Insight Into Paul's Letter To Timothy

- I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; [2] For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty..
- Paul here presents a citywide prayer strategy. This passage embodies the essence of prayer evangelism as practiced in the early church.
- Paul is instructing Timothy to organize the Church in Ephesian so that prayers are said everywhere on behalf of every citizen. Matt. 18:18-20
- Special emphasis is next placed on praying for kings and all who are in authority. Nero, a ungodly ruler of that day. 1Pet.4:12-13
- The modern day equivalent of kings as far as cities are concerned are: The Mayor, City Council Members, Chief of Police, President of the School Board, in essence all the people who share in the life of the city. Prov. 21-1, Prov. 11:11, Rom. 13:1-7
- There is only one way for godliness to increase and ungodliness to decrease is that sinners get saved. This is the type of prayer that God promised if we did it, he would heal our land. 2Chron. 7:14, Jer. 29:7
- Paul was not writing to the senior pastor of a local church as we know it today. Quite the contrary. Paul was addressing Christians who had church every day all over town. Act 2:46-47
- The result of such prayers will effect the spiritual climate of our cities which will cause us to live in communities that are quiet and peaceful in all godliness and honesty.

Insight Into Paul's Letter To Timothy

- [3] For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; [4] Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. [5] For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; [6] Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.
- Praying for the lost is good and acceptable in the sight of God. This is the confidence God wants you to have in your prayer 1John 5:14. Rom 5:8
- What truth is it that God wants all men to know? That Jesus Christ came into this world to save sinners, whom Paul says, I am chief. 1Tim 1:15
- A mediator is someone who stands between two opposing parties and works out a solution. Jesus is a mediator because we were Gods enemies children of His wrath. Eph 2:3
- A ransom is a payment to persuade someone more powerful to do something for someone less powerful. Jesus' death was the payment which paid the debt owned by us to God so that we could be forgiven and accepted in Him. 2Corn.5:17-19, John 8:31,36
- The object of Paul's instructions to Timothy is very simple and extremely clear: pray that everybody in your city, and especially those in authority will be saved. To this end, Jesus has already made provision by giving Himself as a ransom for all. God's will is that all men be saved. 2Peter 3:9, Matt. 9:36-39

Insight Into Paul's Letter To Timothy

- [7] Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.
- [8] I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.
- Paul was not defending his apostleship. Here he is simply confirming the call on his life to the gentiles. Act 9:6, 15. Your call may not be as dramatic as Paul's, however, every believer is called and ordained by God to teach and preach the truth of the gospel. John 15:16
- Why isn't the church impacting cities like they did in the early church?
- The focus of the church is on itself and its prayers are centered on its members; when the church should be focused on the lost and the city. Luke 19:10, Matt. 6:10
- The Church must begin to focus on the cities and pray for all men. Matt. 18:12-14, Luke 5:30-32
- The Father has set the table with enough chairs for the entire world to come. He has placed a personalized welcome card on each plate and sent invitations rsvp.
- What is the problem? The Church, God's post office, must deliver the invitations. What a tragedy for such a banquet to go unattended because of negligence on the part of the messengers. Lu. 14:23, Matt. 21:28-32,
- Prayer evangelism is a life style of prayer. Heb. 12:14, 1Peter 3:7,

Public Prayer vs. Private Prayer

- We are led to believe that we should only pray in private but, Prayer can be both private and public. (see Matt. 6:6),
- Every time prayer involves the lost, it is public. "Therefore I want the man of God to pray everywhere lifting up holy hands, without wrath and without doubting" (1 Tim. 2:8). (Everyplace in the city)
- If we only pray in private for miracles to happen, God get no glory when the prayers are answered because no one knows you prayed for that miracle.
- We must begin to pray in our city hall for our Mayors and elected officials. We must pray in our educational institutions and with our teachers and students and administrators. We must begin to pray for our local businesses and for business owners. We must pray for fellow employee's, family and friends. James 5:16
- Prayer is doing business with God on earth. Because of the delegated authority given to man in the beginning prayer is not an option it gives God the legal right to operate in the earth realm. Gen 1:26. So then we can look for God to perform miracles on behalf of the lost and our cities according to the great commission. Mark 16:15-20

What About City-Wide Revivals

The focus for revival must be on God's glory and the salvation of the lost. John 17:20-23

- Often our idea of revival is extremely self-serving, and thus unbiblical. A revival that fails to bring the lost to Jesus and breakdown divisions in the Body of Christ is a self-serving revival, centered on mans needs and wants and not on Gods glory and the lost.
- Many times our cry for revival has the hope that if revival comes, the pews of our churches will fill up, finances will abound, and the ministry will be more enjoyable.
- We have the tendency to confuse the healing of the land promised in 2Chr. 7:14 to the healing of our Church. But the healing of the land includes not just my church, not just my family, not just my business, but the entire city.
- Healing of the land requires the healing of the lost. They are the primary virus carriers that spread the disease called sin with its consequences. Rom. 6:23

Felt Needs vs. The Most Important Need

- In order to pray effectively, we must discover the unbelievers felt need. A felt need is what that person feels is most important to him at the time.
- The lost are unable to clearly see their most important need (salvation) because “the god of this world (Satan) has blinded their minds to the truth of the gospel. 2Corn 4;4
- When we pray for their felt needs and God answers those prayers, their eyes are open to the reality and power of God. This in turn leads them to recognize their need for salvation. 1Corn. 2:3-5
- This could have been what Paul had in mind when he said the Lord called him to open their eyes so they will turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to the Kingdom of God., Acts 26:18
- Acceptance vs. Approval – Some of us fear that by withholding the gospel message for later could lead some to believe we are approving of the sinners life style. However, that is not the case, what we are demonstrating is Gods mercy and a spirit of acceptance based on the fact that person has value just as they are because they to are a part of Gods creation. This allows for one to establish credibility with the person. To establish credibility, a process is necessary.
- One thing is needed when you go fishing you must have patience. The first lesson we learn is that you cannot make the fish bite.

How Should We Pray For The Lost

- We don't stop with just praying for those in authority, we should go to them and ask them what their needs are. They already know that many of the problems they face require a miracle. They also have the concern for the city and its citizens on their heart. This is why they are in office, to represent the people that have elected or appointed them to the office.
- Those in authority who need a miracle will tend to hope for a miracle. The reason we can expect a miracle when we pray is because Jesus uses miracles to convince the unbeliever that He is God. John 2:23, John 3:1-7, Matt. 11:4-6, Joh14:8-14
- Some of us are reluctant to pray for a miracle because we are afraid if God doesn't do it, it would give Him a black eye or something. Mark 11:22-23
- Unbelievers don't have the same theological hang-ups that believers have. People in authority are open to prayer. We must realize this. They do not demand that those prayers be answered. All they ask for is that someone close to God say's a prayer for them.

Receiving Jesus' Heart For The Lost

- Ask Jesus for the anointing of compassion for the lost. None of us are born with a compassion for the lost, it must be developed. Matt. 9:36-38
- How do you know you've received it? You begin to bless your neighbors with the blessing of Jesus, and immediately, you will sense a connection where there wasn't before. The love for the lost will continue to grow as you expand your prayer life to include lost and the city and just the church and its members . This is the passion Jesus had for Jerusalem.
- Start to bless your neighbor and others in your sphere of influence. Continue to pray for the lost the next 40 days and experience a Miracle. Praying and blessing others produces passion and love for others.
- Blessings are not an idea they are a reality. When someone curses you, “do you feel it? yes.” When you bless them they also feel it.
- As you begin to have compassion and love the lost, they will begin to pick up your vibe and begin to draw to you because the enemy that has been holding them cannot stand a blessing. So he must leave. Then the person looks at you and say that you are like Jesus, a friend of sinners.